

Meeting Minutes

August 11, 2005

ERICD Directors present: Edward Comerford, Walter Elwell, Emerson Wildes, Richard Hart.

Associate Directors: Suzanne Hourihan.

ERICD staff: Tom Sandham, Justine Calcina.

NRCS: Peter Bonome.

I. Meeting called to order at 7:15 p.m.

II. Minutes

Minutes for the June meeting were approved unanimously by all directors in attendance. No meeting was held in July.

III. Reports

a. Treasurer's

The board approved the monthly treasurer's reports for June and July. The adjusted balance ending for July 31 in the Bank of Newport checking account was \$4061.33. The Smith Barney account balance ending was \$5,279.82. Peter was asked to follow up on the \$5,000.00

accounts receivable from NRCS. There is also \$25,000.00 in legislative funding due the district.

b. District Manager

Tom thanked Peter for his assistance with Tom's certification process, which is almost complete.

Sakonnet Vineyards asked for assistance in dealing with invasive species, relating to a possible future sub-division. One possible solution would be for the City of Newport to remove the plants from their land that is adjacent to the vineyard. The board debated whether the District should provide conservation assistance for a possible development. It was agreed to set up a contract and involve other parties, so that future management concerns will be addressed.

Tom provided his assistance in resolving an easement/right-of-way dispute between a local landowner and the Aquidneck Island Land Trust.

d. NRCS

Peter distributed a list of all active and non-active NRCS contracts in the district area. There are 47 active NRCS conservation contracts (WHIP and EQIP) in Newport and Bristol Counties. Peter proceeded to give a brief, but detailed report on the status of each project.

Two NRCS interns are monitoring wildlife in the area. The board look forward learning more about their work, when a report is available.

A new NRCS program for Rhode Islanders: The Conservation Technical Assistance Program (CTA) is a voluntary program that provides technical assistance supported by science-based technology and tools to help people conserve, maintain, and improve their natural resources.

d. Project Coordinator

Justine reported that she is working with Julia Forgue of Newport Public Works. Julia asked for assistance with designing area signage for recreational use and water protection.

Justine attended the state committee meeting on behalf of Tom.

III. Old Business

Pardon Gray- the no-till seeder from DEM is arriving soon.

IV. New Business

The RC&D Council is looking for an additional representative from the Eastern District. Since no one offered to act as representative, Ted agreed to fulfill this role. The RC&D meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month, at 1 p.m. at NRCS in Warwick.

With assistance from the Eastern District, Krista Harden from NACD would like to hold a New England workshop for District directors to learn how to more effectively work with legislators on political issues. Emerson suggested that the other District boards assist with organizing the workshop. The directors voted unanimously to assist in organizing the workshop.

Unanimous vote of approval for Tom to attend a Pasture Research Station workshop, with expenses to be reimbursed by the Grazing Land Incentive Program.

The New England Value added workshop will be held at the end of August. This should be a good program, and there will be many Rhode Island participants. Also up for discussion is information on Johne's disease.

Tom is working with a local landowner who expressed interest in starting a breeding program. The directors voted unanimously for Tom to assist the landowner by obtaining a SARE grant as part of the GLCI program.

The directors voted unanimously to pay Danielle Minto for consulting services as part of the District beef marketing project.

The director's voted unanimously to participate in the Little Compton storm water project that the Southern District is submitting in the form of a grant, to the Town of Little Compton.

V. Other

NACD would like to hold the 2007 Summer Regional Meeting in Rhode Island.

IV. Meeting adjourned 9:25 p.m.